

Luke White

Mr. Arabian 295 Market St.

Nov 7.1

B Chelera Infantum.

Luke White

admitted March 10th 1820

1st. John W. Johnson

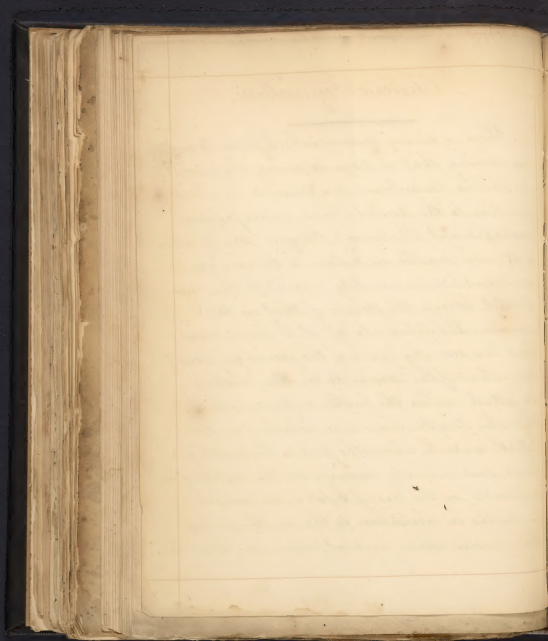
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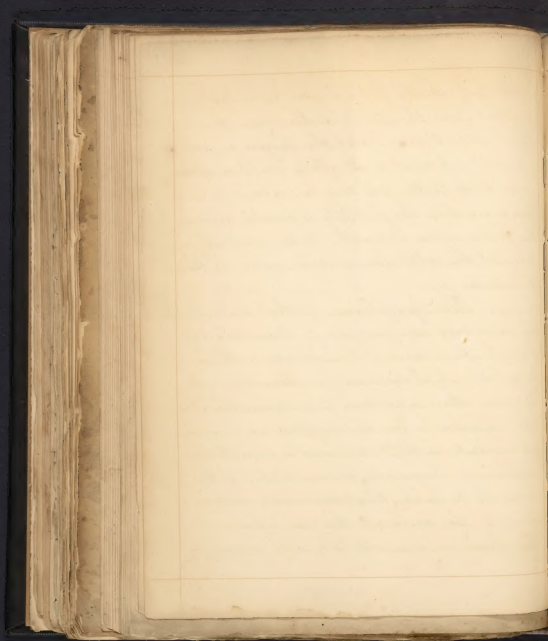
Cholera Infantum.

There is no one disease which prevails in our country that destroys so many children as Cholera Infantum. It appears to be almost peculiar to the United States; as no foreign writers (except Coghorn & Cheyne who mention a disease similar in nature to the one in question) have accurately described the complaint, bearing the marks of that in this country. It appears to affect the large towns and low marshy parts of the country, from one extent of the union to the other, making its attack earlier the farther we proceed south. It makes its appearance here (which is in the lat. $36^{\circ} 30'$ North, about the first, or the middle of June, and generally continues till the middle of September, or the first of October, its violence is always in proportion to the weather during the season, where frequent rains have happened

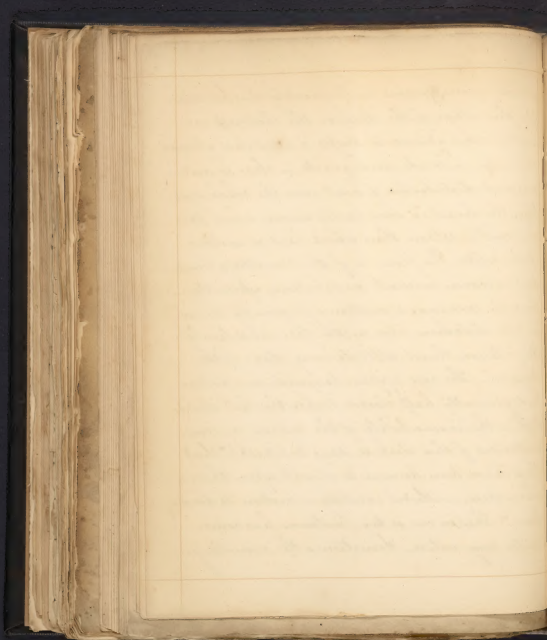


in the early months of the season succeeded by very hot sun. the disease takes upon it a more violent form; and the danger is considerably augmented. It affects children almost from their birth, till they are upwards of two years old. The fatality is greater among the lower order of people. Where mothers neglect the attention which is due to their children.

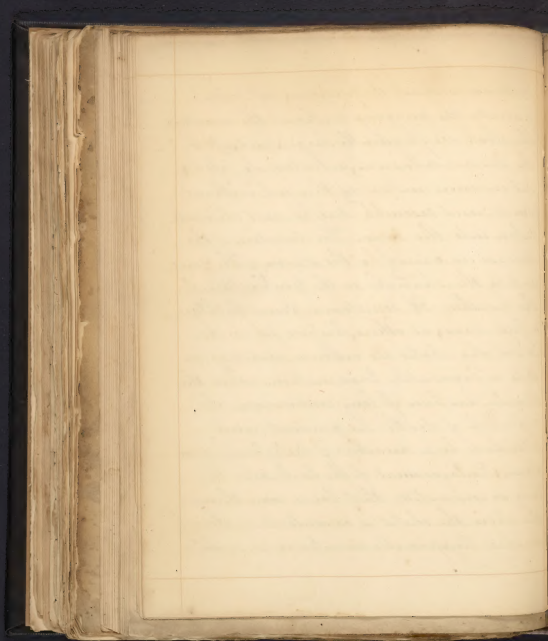
The Symptoms, of Cholera Infantum are vomiting and purging of bilious matter; though sometimes it commences with a diarrhoea which continues for some days without any other symptom of indisposition; the fever is high, when the vomiting and purging are violent, so that delirium is sometimes produced. Frequently, the irritability of the stomach is such, that medicines will be rejected the moment they are taken. The stools are generally of a dark green or



yellow colour, worms are frequently discharged. In this stage of the disease the children are restless, and appear to suffer a good deal of pain: the pulse is weak, and quick: - there is an unequal distribution of heat over the whole system, the head is unusually warm, while the extremities retain their usual heat or incline to be cold. The fever is of the remitting kind and discovers evident exacerbations especially towards evening: a swelling frequently occurs in the abdomen, also in the face, and limbs. An intense thirst attends every stage of the disease. The eyes appear languid, and hollow, and generally half closed when the child sleeps. "Such is the insensibility of the system in some instances of this disease, says Dr Rush, that flies have been known to alight upon the eyes when open, without exciting a motion to remove them." This in one or two instances has come under my notice. Sometimes the vomiting

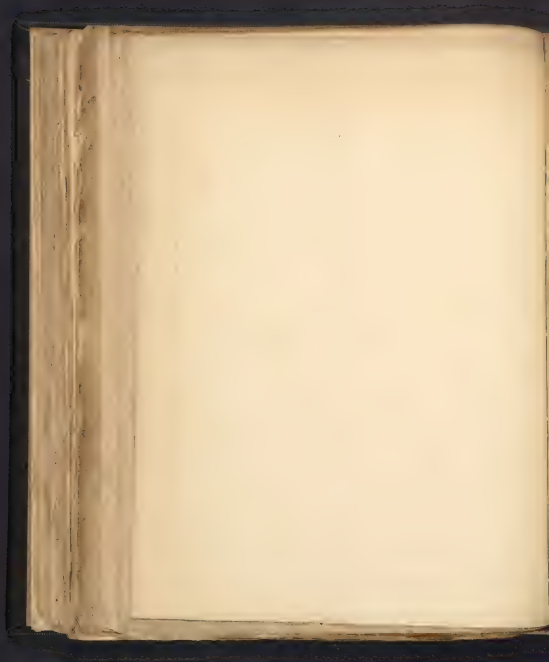


Continuous without the purging; but more
 generally the purging without the vomiting.
 The stools are frequently large; and, after
 the disease advances, are extremely fetid;
 but in some instances they are without
 smell, and resemble drinks, and aliments
 taken into the body. The duration of the
 disease is varied by the season of the year,
 and by the changes in the temperature of
 the weather. It sometimes proves fatal, in
 a few days; at others, lingers for weeks.
 A cool day abates its violence and disposes
 it to a favorable termination; when the
 disease has been of long continuance, the
 approach of death is gradual, and
 attended by a number of distressing sym-
 ptoms: Enlargement of the liver, and the
 body so emaciated that bones come through
 the skin, the child is convulsed, a strongly
 marked hypochondriac countenance, and a



fatal termination soon ensues.

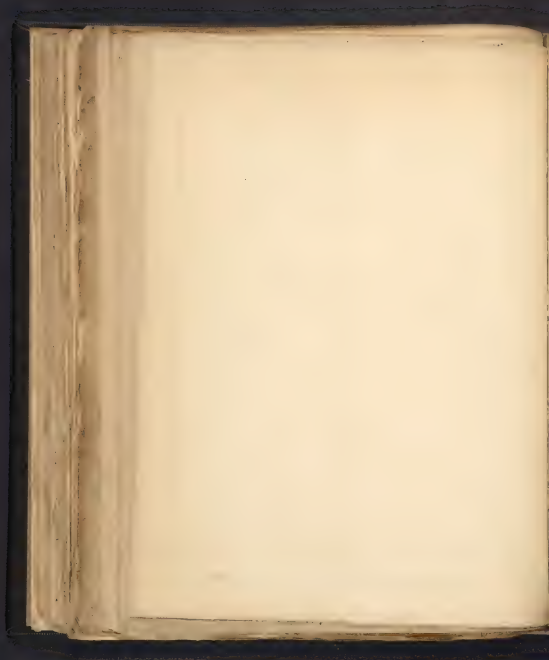
In consulting the works of Cheyne, I find that he makes some observations on a disease similar to the one in view. He says that the liver, in the early months of childhood, is deranged, and shows itself in a discharge chiefly bilious. When nervous only, he terms it, it is called by Willis, the Green Fever;—but it is the same disease when accompanied with vomiting. Convulsions appear when the case is violent, or the child of a very irritable constitution; and during the fit a quantity of green excrement is passed. There is always a great deal of fever, convulsions, starting, screaming, and twisting of the limbs. In the intervals between the convulsions, there are partial spasms of the face, about the eyes and mouth; and I have no doubt that children are often carried off in these paroxysms. It becomes



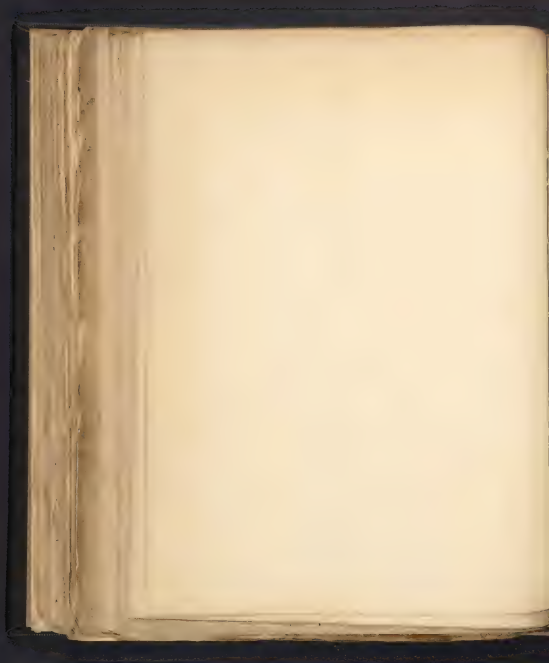
a chronic diarrhoea, with the same kind
 of discharges, green, and frequently sour and
 watery, & accompanied with intolerable fever,
 and wasting away of the body.

After giving the symptoms in as concise &
 methodical as possible I shall now speak of
 the causes.

There have been various opinions relative
 to the cause of Cholera Infantum: It has
 been attributed to debility, worms, sum-
 mer fruits, &c. but there are many proofs
 to contradict that either of the above
 produces the disease: Even year in our
 country, at a certain season, adults are more
 or less attacked with bilious fever, and Cholera
 Morbus; so likewise, children are visited with
 Cholera, and fever, nearly at the same time
 in the season. Cholera in children, appearing
 a little earlier than in adults, in the same
 place and situation, ~~which~~ does not prove



the predisposing causes not to be the same, or
that the disease is different. For children being
more predisposed to disease from weakness of
constitution, the remote cause is sooner put into
action by the exciting. That they are both the
same disease we infer from the cause which
produces one, produces the other: they are both
diseases of the alimentary canal, produced by
miasma, and brought into action by their
different exciting causes. The exciting cause
of Cholera Infantum is generally substances
taken into the body, disagreeing with the
stomach, change of diet, such as removing
the child from the breast or wean at the
breast the mother should be understood, or has
menstruation, change in the weather, worms,
and clothing, may all be considered as exciting
causes. Observations have shown the tendency of esta-
blishing the human affection of the disease in the
alimentary canal. The effects of inflammation are



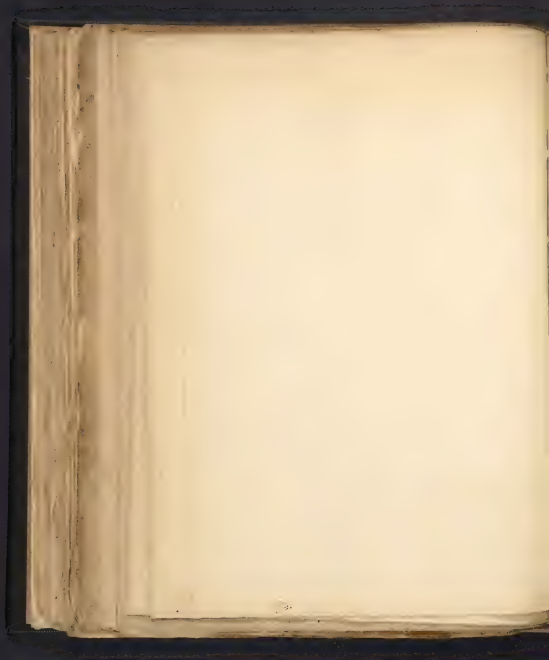
passed through out the whole of the alimentary canal, and pervades the mucous membrane in which are situated the lacteal tubes and, most numerous, in the duodenum; sometimes the lacteal tube is enlarged, but not frequently: the large intestine is seldom affected, nor is it when the disease takes on the dysentery type. The hepatic circulation is very much deranged, the liver is found increased in size and sometimes indurated, and most commonly soft and flabby, and the ducts vent and portal are distended with bile which is much altered from its nature or healthy state. The spleen and pancreas are seldom affected.

The heart naturally has the affection of the liver in disease of this organ, from the circumstance of the great vessels of that organ having their origin in all the abdominal vessels. And that whenever there is an irritation of the intestines, consequently there must be an increased flow of blood to the liver, and this circulation kept incessantly in action, and the



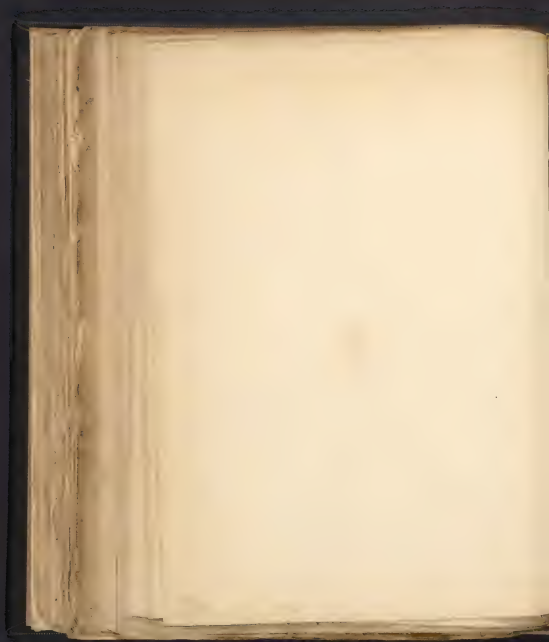
lender state of the system occurs, consequently we must conclude the consequence to be a diseased state of the liver, and the curability of the bile affections. The question that is asked, why does not an inflammation of the same kind occur in diarrhoea, and dysentery as frequently as in the liver? I believe that in all persons susceptible of phlogosis the liver becomes more or less inflamed.

At the time when the liver inflammation attacks cholera there both are usually making their appearance, and have a common origin arising from infection. But a fever is in various phlogistic diseases, the liver is sometimes so much so as to induce the name of Medohepsia, before the inflammation is extinct in. Thus through exuberant phlogosis are produced, in the same being of the liver, that the complaint is most ~~to be~~ fatal. The disease makes an enormous incursion in the constitution and all our attempts are vain in attempting to remove

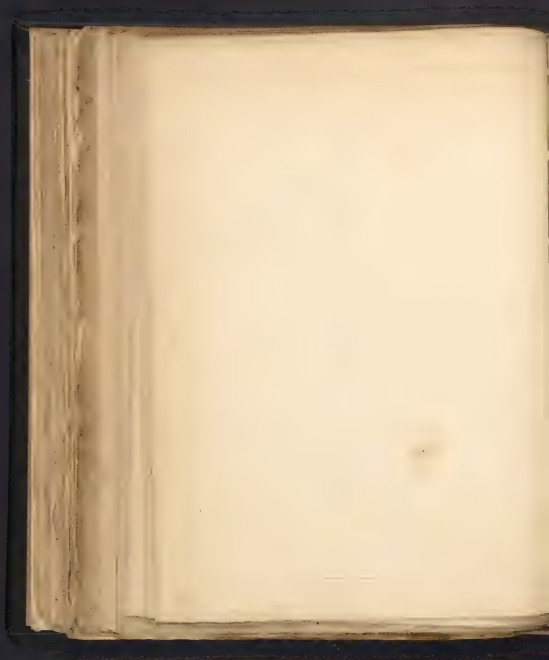


the little suffers from death. But I am happy
to say, that this of the present, I have not
done ought to be. I give you more fully, I think,
and see the necessity of your coming next at
a more reasonable time. In common means
many diseases have been checked in their
course. In considering the symptoms and
causes of Cholera Infantum, the course of
treatment is plainly pointing out.

In this attempt I cannot deviate from
what has been taught me in this respect, as
nothing of this nature appears to have done,
the research of our distinguished professors,
but we are now brought out an exact rule to
beat the disease in all its various forms, we
are to attack it by the forms, and by the means,
which are present, at the time we meet the
disease. After considering the causes of this
disease, I shall proceed to relate the treat-
ment. In relation upon the history, the



cause of Eastern Intermittent that like the bowel
 affections is actually ^{it is} an acute disease, we
 would have no hesitation in directing our
 remedies to that organ. Let us now consider
 how its causes, and its treatment. At the
 first indication which presents itself in the
 treatment of Cholera, is to discharge the stom-
 ach, and intestines of their loaded contents.
 We are now to make choice of those medicines
 best suited for that purpose. Emetics are
 to be employed when the Spasms is
 mild and they can be retained; and the
 best of these is Castor oil. But in the more
 violent ones where there is great irritability
 of the Stomach and much vomiting, these
 medicines will not be retained; and we must
 therefore allow the irritability as a previous
 step to our remedying with emetic mix-
 tions, fomentations to the Stomach, warm
 bath, lime water &c.

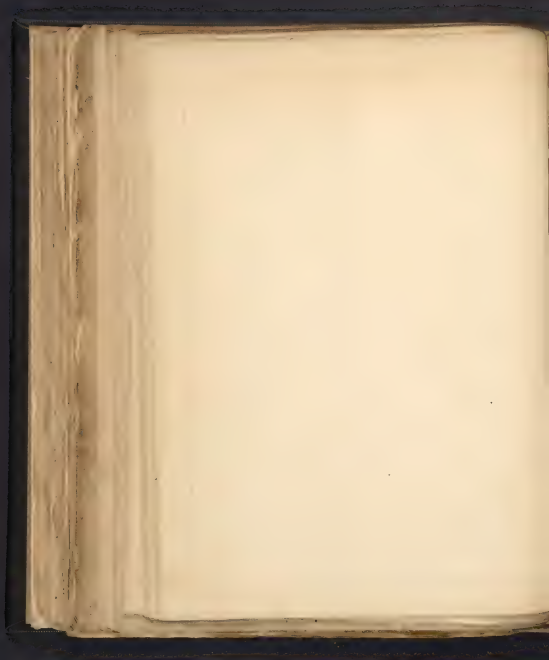


after this we are able to employ emetics:
 the one I have used with the most success, is
 that recommended by Dr. Sympson the 3^d of
 the practice of Medicine in this university.
 which is a combination of calomel and opium.
 this has the advantage over castor oil and
 other emetics. By its diminutive bulk,
 and retained much better by the stomach,
 by its stercoraceous gravity such a vomiting
 should be excited. Besides these emphyat
 properties it renouates the alimentary canal
 more effectually, and mitigates the spasmodic
 affection. This practice is adapted to ordinary
 diseases of this nature, but when it makes its
 attack more violent, as it sometimes does,
 with violent gastric irritation, vomiting, and
 will not submit of any thing upon the stomach,
 accompanying with thirst and pain about the
 umbilical region and more or less
 vomiting in this case is highly prohibited.



he writes on this disease, not by the rectitude
 of Dr. Sturman. I used the Purgative and
 relaxed the stomach of its 'acid' contents, and
 allowed it to receive the 'laxative' rule's with
 a few drops of Senna. I calmed irritation
 and relieved the stomach of its 'acid' contents,
 and in the case the bowels were
 with 'relaxed' bowels, and continued the
 Senna, or self-regulation the 'laxative' was soon
 relieved. When the inflammation of the stomach
 and elementary disease exists, there can be no
 objection to the administration of emetics, of
 course the Circulation is to be improved.

When there is reason to suspect inflammation
 of the stomach and elementary disease, this
 disease, we are not to overlook the cause.
 I have seen it used when it was almost instan-
 taneous relief: when colic is used without
 strength it is best in form of a powder combi-
 ned with mustard in violation of former



to 1 grain of nitrate to 3 or 4 of Vinibark, these
 powders taken two or three times a day in
 ordinary cases, I have found to succeed in
 removing the disease. It will only be necessary
 to continue the powders till the bowels are
 completely voided of bilious matter, this
 can be ascertained by their changing from
 a darkish yellow to a more rufous colour.
 After we have accomplished this end, a re-
 course must be had to such a combination
 of remedial, as will have the double effect of
 soothing the irritation of the stomach, and
 accelerating evacuation, and determine us to the
 use, &c. To meet this indication a combina-
 tion of opium, hyoscyamus and camomile is re-
 commended.

R. Gum. opii ss
 Extract. Hyosc.
 Rad. Camom. ʒij
 M. & mix in wine

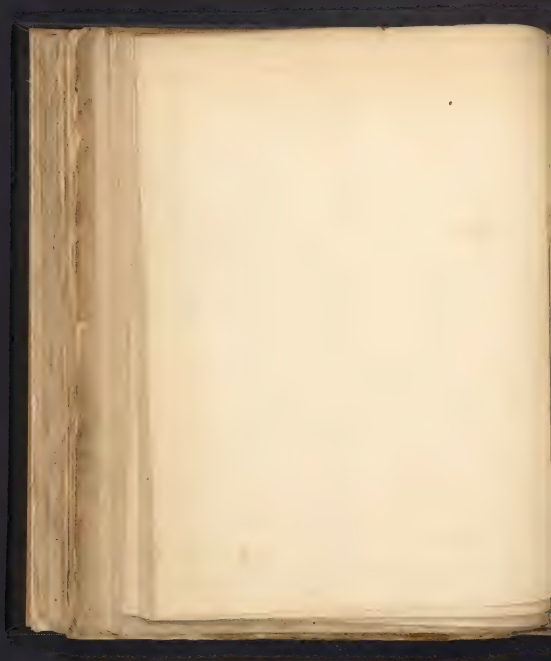


The dose of these is one every two hours or
 oftener, if necessary till the effect be produced.
 When the pain and irritation are very great
 and frequent evacuations produced, the
 opium may be increased, or another in-
 tensive cathartic used. The warm bath I recom-
 mended to equalize circulation by frequent
 repetition. In the course of the day, the effects
 may be increasing or the irritation may
 still be increasing, perhaps, but certainly when
 the patient is in a sinking condition.

Stimuli are useful here in all stages of the
 disease attended to the stomach, but must
 not continue till they have an effect.

If, then, after a few days, the patient is
 accompanied with tormina and tenesmus:

The stomach now is either so debilitated, or
 so irritable that the food will not be
 taken, or will be rejected. Here the cathartics
 and Opiates I have recommended



by Dr Chapman are useful.

R. Pul. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. $\frac{1}{2}$ ss

Lincol. oil. gut XV

Sacch. alb. $\frac{1}{2}$ ss

or mouth. $\frac{1}{2}$ ss

It does not appear to be taken at the
occasion of a severe or cold house.

Whitish combined with Macassar.

Sandamunda. is recommended when

all the former and business exist.

The following is an excellent prescription

given us by Dr. Harnan to relieve

formica and tongue.

R. ol. Nucis $\frac{1}{2}$ ss

Sacchar alb $\frac{1}{2}$ ss

Put them well together, then add the following

aq. cal. $\frac{1}{2}$ ss. at Lincol. oil. gut XV.

The dose is graduated according to cir-

cumstances. modum in which an ounce

From the 1st of Feb. to the 1st of September in
a case of Hemorrhoids. It was induced to make
head of it in the 1st of September. In an eye
case the discharge was very offensive. Calomel
was given in various doses & abstraction moderately
employed. I used the 1st of Feb. in the form of
inunction & in season to be mixed with the Merc.

the most successful in relieving tormina and
tenesmus. Scarcely ever sometimes continuing after
all the haem and acute symptoms have disap-
peared, but nevertheless the discharges are
frequent and debilitating.

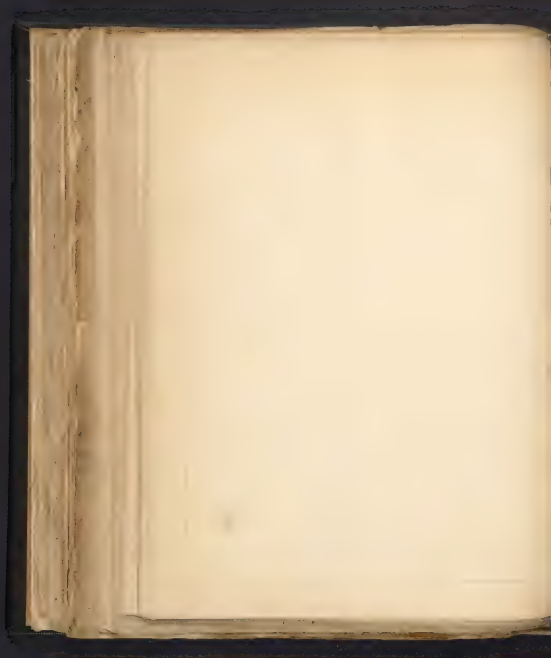
When we must resort to medicines which
are calculated to restrain 'urgine': of these
the virtue of alum is valued which commen-
dations after all its acrid and offensive
matter be removed, I have used with one
grain of alum, in wine (with 1 grain of
saccharum) every three or four hours, and suc-
cessfully increasing the alum to 2 or 3 grains.
Another remedy, which I have had frequent
proofs of its efficacy, is the Deschampsian
indicuous rootable: an infusion of one
succi of the root, to a pint of water given
in the dose of a desert spoon full twice daily
often produces the happiest effects.
As *Chorea Symplicium* is evidently a febrile



temperatures, we ought not to neglect the temperature of the surface: the importance of it in all febrile diseases is unquestionable.

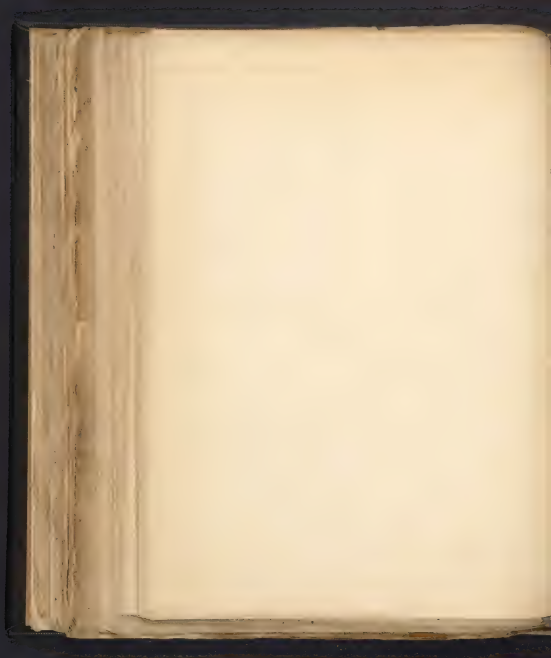
When we find that the heat of the surface is above the proper point, it will be advisable to expose such parts to a current of cool air; or to immerse them in cold water, or even the patient in salt and water, or vinegar and water, with a sponge. In cases where a determination to the head is indicated, in the numerous diseases of heat in that part, however, whether of the face and eyes, the coolest water should be a remedy.

When there is an unequal distribution of heat over the body, such as cold extremities not heat and morbid, we should apply flannels to the former and cold to the latter, or let it be exposed to a stream of cool air; as soon as the more violent symptoms of the disease are subsiding,

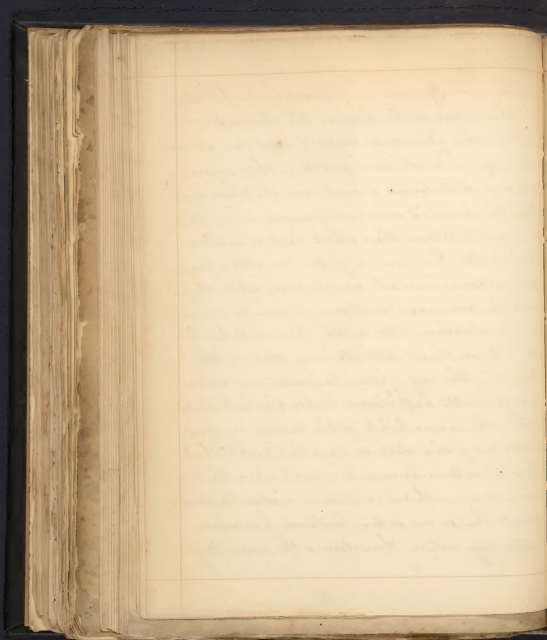


some and continue the disease should be given.
 The best method of action with a better balance
 "is to use a more solid" that is not times or
 "and must be with justice, may be given
 with great advantage in this stage of the
 disease; the diet will be very more than
 a strong, which the other patient should
 have. The removal of the patient from the
 town to the country, is the next and most
 beneficial remedy. I have frequently known
 all the former remedies to fail and a
 visit to the country cure the disease.

Dr. Rush, says, "I am in doubt ^{whether} ~~whether~~
 that "out of many hundred children
 whom he sent into the country, in every stage
 of the disease he lost but three; when the
 advantage of a removal into the country
 cannot be obtaining, great benefit will be
 received, from daily riding a short distance,
 allowing the patient exercise and the enjoyment
 of



of pure air. I shall conclude by giving what is recommended as a preventative of this disease. 1st. The child should not be weaned under a year old. 2nd. The daily use of the cold bath. 3rd. The due attention to clothing; flannel should be worn next the skin, and worsted stockings upon the feet. 4th. Diet should be carefully attended to, avoiding unripe fruits or the excess of any fruits. The proper diet is milk, and the farinaceous articles. — a moderate quantity of salted meat occasionally during those months in which the disease prevails. 5th. The use of old wine, from a tea spoon full to half a wine glass full given according to the age of the child, every day. 6th. Cleanliness both with respect to the person and clothing of children. 7th. The removal of children into the country, before the approach of warm weather. During



dentition the gums should be frequently examined, and should inflammation or much irritation occur, they must be freely lanced. —

